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vice in rendering explicit those criticisms of our political life implied in the system of ethics which he upholds and which we believe to be the essentially true one.

The book contains what is most acceptable in any speculative work, a careful summary, the consecutive paragraphs of which are so arranged that the language as well as the thought is continuous.

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The United Kingdom: A Political History. By GOLDWIN SMITH.

Two volumes. Pp. x, 650, 482. Price, \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Co., 1899.

Notwithstanding the somewhat unfamiliar title of Mr. Goldwin Smith's latest work, "The United Kingdom" is almost exclusively a history of England; and, as if to anticipate the rather querulous demand of critics as to the need of another history of England, the author offers in the preface this simple word of explanation: "The limited aim of these pages is to give the ordinary reader, so far as was in the author's power, a clear, connected and succinct view of the political history of the United Kingdom as it appears in the light of recent research and discussion." The special student who opens the volumes in search of new historical data, fresh ore from old mines, will find little to tempt him, for neither foot-notes nor marginal references point to the sources of the author's information. While secondary authorities have been freely used, the result is not a piece of mechanical book-making, but a brilliant commentary on the course of English history as it appears to a life-long student of English politics.

Although the undisguised purpose of Mr. Goldwin Smith to tell only the political story of England frees his work from comparison with Green's "Short History of the English People," whose scope is so largely social, the query arises whether the political life of the English nation can be understood without insight into those social changes, of which, as Mr. Green maintained, political history is so largely the outcome. But while it is true that Mr. Goldwin Smith has limited his view to the political side of the nation, he has not allowed himself to write a mere drum and trumpet history, nor a history of court intrigue. His work is both dignified and serious, and he has not left the social and intellectual aspects of English life wholly untouched. Even though the outburst of national spirit in the Elizabethan literature receives only passing notice and the influence of Methodism on national life is dismissed with a single word of comment, it is only fair to add that those light, hasty touches are singu-

larly skillful and luminous. The under-current of English social life is by no means lost sight of, even when it flows quietly and peacefully beneath the throne of the new monarchy; but the stress of the author's labor has been put upon the interpretation of national life as it has expressed itself in political institutions.

From the circumstance of his long residence outside of England it might well be thought that Mr. Goldwin Smith would bring to his work a less ardent advocacy of all things English than that which characterizes too many English historians on native soil, and the supposition is confirmed by the candid spirit that pervades the two volumes. There is a refined patriotism throughout that does not hesitate to mete out praise and blame to those who have made English history, and one marks withal a certain breadth of vision that does much to rectify the all too prevalent view of the isolation and unique character of many phenomena in the course of English politics. Actors on the stage of English history gain rather than lose by being placed side by side with their contemporaries on the continent.

And yet, with all this cosmopolitanism, the author remains English at heart and English in his conviction of his country's mission to solve "the problem of constitutional government." So obvious seems this world-mission that Englishmen are prone, as one of their most eminent historians has said, "to claim empire as their due, often with scant consideration for the feelings and desire of other peoples." Mr. Goldwin Smith has only regret that Scotland did not succumb to English arms in the age of the Edwards, "so clearly in the interest of both countries was the policy of union." The defeat of Bannockburn "ended for many a day the hope of a united Britain;" the outcome was "retarded civilization on both sides." Hardly a suggestion has our author that the Scotch people were fighting for their independence with a national pride as ardent as that of the first Edward himself; not a thought of what subjugation might have meant to this high-spirited people and to their conquerors. The rightfulness of the ultimate end is so clear in the author's mind that he winks at the means which the English Edwards chose to unite Scotland to England.

The work suffers somewhat from condensation. In view of the long discussion over the survival of Roman institutions on British soil, it seems somewhat dogmatic to say that "of the Roman empire remained only the great military roads," and that "the English nation and polity were a fresh and purely Germanic birth." The student of English institutions will hardly be satisfied with the author's account of "Old English Polity." A more careful estimate of the early English kingship would perhaps have saved our author from leaving the

impression that William the Conqueror was only "a mighty robber," and that the Norman conquest was a very dubious blessing in disguise. It is hard to understand why the author, after disposing of the vexed question of the motives of Henry VIII. in desiring a divorce from Catharine with the remark that it is "alike insoluble and unimportant," should devote a long paragraph to the unsavory history of Anne Boleyn.

Notwithstanding these occasional lapses Mr. Goldwin Smith has given new evidence in these two volumes of his extraordinary gift of concise and pithy statement, as well as of his keen sense of proportion and historical perspective.

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Principles of Scientific Socialism. By Rev. CHARLES H. VAIL. Commonwealth Library. Pp. 237. Price, \$1.00; paper, 35 cents. New York: Commonwealth Company, 1899.

A History of Socialism. By THOMAS KIRKUP. Pp. vi, 364. Price, \$2.00. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1900.

Mr. Vail's purpose is to demonstrate that modern socialism "is scientific and rests upon a historical, economic and scientific basis. To explain the principles of modern socialism and aid in better understanding of the subject." . . . This simply means that after an inadequate sketch of the "industrial revolution," we have eight chapters of Karl Marx diluted and three scattering chapters on the "advantages of socialism," "evidences of the moral strength of socialism," and "popular economic errors." There is no evidence that any part of the Marxian mantle has fallen upon the author, who is ignorant of history and whose attitude of mind is anything but scientific, while his acquaintance with economic thought leaves him prejudiced against "our present cannibalistic system of industry." (p. 101.)

That socialistic theories must undergo the rough-hewing of continual controversy, discussion and criticism is the guiding thought of the second book which forms the subject of this notice, and, we may add, it is a great pleasure to welcome a new edition of Mr. Kirkup's work. Two chapters have been added, the one on "The German Social Democracy," and other matter bringing the account nearer to our own times. In this work we realize something of the meaning and significance of the socialistic movement, its place in history and the issues to which it is tending. Here we have emphasized what Mr. Vail conspicuously neglects, that socialism is not wedded to any